

# Fact Sheet

## Students with Physical or Cognitive Disabilities

From CDC's School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS) 2000

### About SHPPS

SHPPS is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and programs at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. Results from SHPPS 2000 are published in the *Journal of School Health*, Volume 71, Number 7, September 2001.

### Health Education

- 38.7% of required health education courses contained students with permanent physical or cognitive disabilities.
  - 65.6% of these courses had a teacher who coordinated activities for these students with a special education teacher.
  - 46.0% of these courses had another teacher or aide who assisted the students with disabilities.
  - 28.8% of these courses had a teacher who assigned note takers or readers to assist these students with class work.
  - 82.0% had a teacher who simplified instructional content or varied the amount of difficulty of material taught.
  - 80.7% had a teacher who used more skill modeling, practice, or repetition for these students.
  - 82.1% had a teacher who used preferential seating for these students.
- 42.7% of all required health education courses had a teacher who received staff development on teaching students with permanent physical or cognitive disabilities during the two years preceding the study.

### School Policy and Environment

- 52.0% of states, 96.3% of districts, and 93.5% of schools have adopted policies prohibiting harassment of students by other students. Among these, 65.2% of states, 85.9% of districts, and 76.1% of schools have policies specifically prohibiting harassment based on physical or cognitive disability.

### Health Services

- 32.6% of states and 60.8% of districts require districts or schools to provide case management for students with chronic health conditions when needed; 68.0% of schools provide this service when needed.
- Medically fragile students, defined as those who are dependent on nursing services or special technologies to enhance or sustain their lives, can be found in 35.8% of schools. Among these schools:
  - 49.5% provide catheterizations to these students when needed.
  - 42.2% provide stoma care.
  - 41.0% provide tube feedings.
  - 35.5% provide suctioning.
  - 34.7% provide respirator care.
  - 34.4% provide tracheostomy care.

### Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and Individualized Health Plans (IHPs)

- 33.3% of states and 63.9% of districts require school nurses to participate in the development of IEPs when indicated; 62.8% of states and 80.3% of districts require school mental health and social services staff to participate.
- 27.4% of states and 47.5% of districts require school nurses to participate in the development of IHPs; 25.0% of states and 38.5% of districts require school mental health or social services staff to participate.
- School nurses participate in the development of IEPs when indicated in 75.3% of schools and school mental health and social services staff participate in 87.5% of schools.
- School nurses participate in the development of IHPs when indicated in 78.4% of schools and school mental health and social services staff participate in 45.6% of schools.

**For additional information** on SHPPS, contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Adolescent and School Health, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Mailstop K-33, Atlanta, GA 30341-3717, telephone 888-231-6405, <http://www.cdc.gov/shpps>.